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Around the World

Rome Said to Suspect K.G.B. Role in Abduction

ROME, Aug. 10 (UPI) — Italian magistrates are investigating the possibility that the K.G.B., the Soviet security agency, took part in the kidnapping of Emanuela Orlandi in order to discredit Pope John Paul II, a top police official said today.

"It's a very delicate situation," the official said. "But we are investigating the possibility of a K.G.B. connection in the Orlandi kidnapping."

The official, who is directly involved in the investigation into the abduction June 22 of the 15-year-old daughter of a Vatican employee, said some of the tactics used by the girl's kidnappers resemble those of Soviet secret agents. Asked why the Russians would want to kidnap a young girl, the official said: "To discredit the Pope. To turn public opinion against him by placing the blame for Emanuela's death on him."